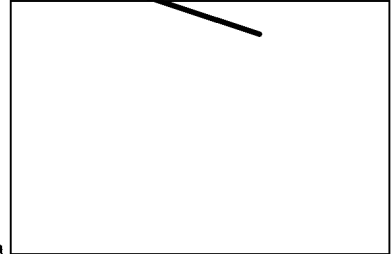




Director of
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Intelligence

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CIACPAS --- NID 88-074JX ---

National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
30 March 1988

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2005

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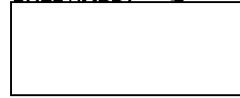
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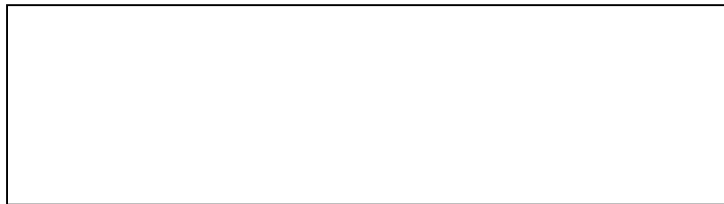
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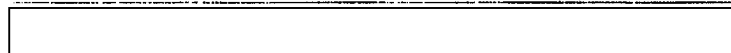
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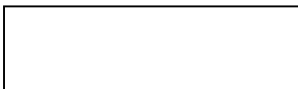


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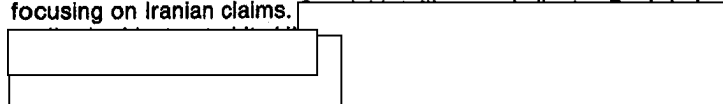
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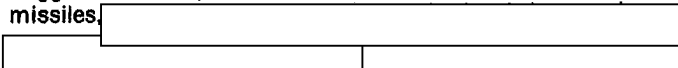


IRAN-IRAQ: Chemical Warfare Threat Increasing

Official Iraqi spokesmen in several Arab capitals yesterday said Iraq may use chemical weapons against Iranian cities if Iranian chemical attacks on Halabjah are proved. Baghdad, meanwhile, criticized the UN Secretary General yesterday for ignoring Iran's offensives and alleged atrocities—including the use of chemicals—and instead focusing on Iranian claims.



Comment: The oblique Iraqi threats and complaints probably are intended to deter the UN's investigative team from making a finding and to shift attention from Iraq's own use of chemical warfare. The regime probably believes it has already lost international support because of use of chemicals in northern Iraq and seeks to limit further embarrassment. The threat to escalate chemical attacks if Iranian usage is proved almost certainly is a bluff to deter the UN team and to discourage further Iranian offensive actions. Baghdad is not likely to use chemical weapons against Iranian border cities. Iraq has the capability to do so, however, using its chemical bombs or artillery shells. Also, Iraq's success in developing chemical bombs and shells suggests it could produce a crude chemical warhead for its Scud missiles.



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